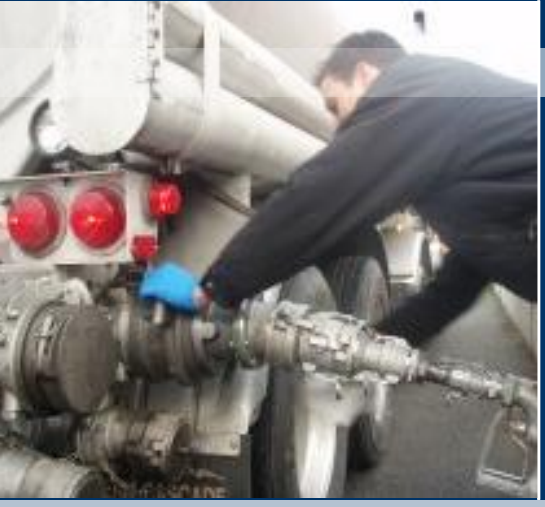

Whole Energy

Produces and distributes biodiesel and other alternative fuels.

2950 Newmarket Street
Bellingham, WA 98226

Number of Employees: 8 **Year Founded: 2004** **Region Served: West Coast** www.whole-energy.com

Profile

Bellingham's Whole Energy Corporation produces and distributes alternative fuels, primarily biodiesel. The company started business in 2004 with the goal of developing economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable alternatives to petroleum fuels.

Whole Energy operates production facilities and distribution terminals in Washington, California, and Oregon. The company's distribution facility in Anacortes features more than 100,000 gallons of heated storage, in-line filtration, and injection dye systems. The Anacortes location is also a short distance from Interstate 5 and a number of major petroleum distribution centers.

Whole Energy's biofuel operations are an important part of our state's continued commitment to clean energy. Whole Energy's biodiesel is a cost-effective source of fuel for the company's high-volume customers. The Washington State Ferry system – the largest public consumer of biodiesel in the country – saves money and time by using Whole Energy's locally-sourced fuel.

In 2010, Whole Energy received a $165,000 loan from the Washington Department of Commerce as part of the State Energy Program (SEP) and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. The loan helped Whole Energy construct biodiesel blending systems at its Anacortes and Tacoma facilities.

These systems allow Whole Energy to blend biodiesel with petroleum-based diesel on distribution trucks that arrive at its facilities. This process usually requires a biofuel producer to construct a costly fuel-blending terminal and bulk storage facilities. Some companies transport biodiesel to specialized blending facilities, adding additional time and cost to the distribution process.

The blending systems fill an important gap in Washington's biodiesel supply chain and were designed to meet the growing regional market demand for biodiesel blends.

Prior to Recovery Act funding, Whole Energy was unable to deliver blended biodiesel to its customers, which include large fuel distributors and retail locations. Fuel distributors are willing to offer bio diesel to their fleets and at retail outlets, but they require that the product be available near their existing petroleum fuel supply sources.

"This project lets us bring locally blended biodiesel to the market. It makes local products the first choice for our customers…. I can't imagine how the project could have gone smoother."

— Atul Deshmane

Whole Energy President and CEO Atul Deshmane noted, "This project lets us bring locally blended biodiesel to the market. It makes local products the first choice for our customers… otherwise customers would go to Midwestern products."

The blending systems also expanded Whole Energy's customer base. The company now supplies high-quality, pre-blended biodiesel to the Washington State Ferry System fleet.

Deshmane anticipated that Whole Energy's blended fuel capacity will double its number of distributors and the company has recently started supplying the Army Corps of Engineers with its high-grade fuel blends.

Deshmane is pleased by the SEP loan process. He remarked, "I can't imagine how the project could have gone smoother. We started the project at the beginning of the year, and by the end of January we were serving the ferry system. We appreciate the support of Commerce and the Washington Department of Agriculture –they have been behind our industry 100-percent."

Whole Energy estimates that the new blending systems will produce three million gallons of blended biodiesel per year and replace a quarter of a million gallons of diesel fuel a year. In Anacortes, where the project created two full-time jobs, the volume of diesel fuel replaced for the Washington State Ferry System alone is expected to be one million gallons per year.

Each gallon of conventional diesel is capable of producing approximately 22 pounds of harmful carbon dioxide (CO_2). Replacing three million gallons of diesel with biofuel each year could prevent over 65 million pounds of CO_2 from entering the atmosphere, each year.

Biofuel technology continues to evolve as a promising, greener alternative to fossil fuels. The global demand for biodiesel is expected to reach 37 billion gallons by 2016, growing at an average annual rate of over 30-percent.